**L**iving **U**nder the **I**nfluence

(Eph. 5:15-6:9)

What does life look like when you are dominated by the Spirit of Christ (L.U.I.)?

How do you drink deeply of the Spirit (5:18)?

 “Walk”

* Confession and repentance of sin
* Surrender of self
* Allowing of God’s Word to saturate your thinking

Three Distinct Characteristics of L.U.I.

* **Unbridled Joy** that originates from in your heart and spills naturally out of your life (5:19).
* **Continual Gratitude** to God who remains true to his goodness even in the badness of a given moment (5:20).
* **Submissive** to other believers, so your God-given relational structures reflect Christ as your real Master (5:21-6:9).
* In Marriage…

Christianity changed everything

* Freed women
* Gave equal value to the two genders
* Demonstrated the manifold wisdom of God in creation; that authority and submission work.

Chauvinism, feminism, and egalitarianism are the unwise models of these evil days (man-centred attempts to solve sin-entrenched problems).

*Scripture-centred living for Spirit-filled saints has pleasing Christ as the central goal.*

* Out of reverence for Christ, Spirit-saturated wives submit to the headship of their husband (5:22-24).

*Spirit-filled women yield to the healthy, hard calls of their husbands to live wisely for God.*

* Out of reverence for Christ, Spirit-saturated husbands surrender their self-centredness in order to sacrificially love their wives (5:25-33).

*Spirit-filled men provide for their wife’s physical, emotional, and spiritual development and protect her from abuse or injustice.*

* In Parenting…
* In Spirit-saturated homes children obey and honour their parents for the Lord’s sake (6:1-2).

*At stake is the preservation of God’s truth to the next generations and the child enjoying the full lifespan intended for them* (6:3).

* Spirit-saturated fathers do not cause anger and bitterness to build in their children; rather their Spirit-filled authenticity reaches their children’s hearts with God’s truth (6:4).

Avoid…

* Overprotection/ smothering
* Favouritism
* Pushing relentless achievement
* Praiselessness
* Making them feel unwanted
* Embarrassing them for failures/ weaknesses
* Holding love hostage to behaviour
* Intimidation over loving correction
* In the Marketplace…
* Spirit-saturated people under authority obey, respect, fear, and sincerely and wholeheartedly serve their employer as if their employer were Christ (6:5).

*Spirit-filled employees give their best always because God’s eyes are always open and he rewards the undervalued or under-appreciated servant* (6:6-8).

* Spirit-saturated employers handle those placed under them by God with great care and respect because all people belong to Christ, the real Master of all

(6:6, 9).

*Spirit-filled employers find ways to motivate partnership over owner/ dictatorship since all are servants who answer to God.*

Christians have been empowered to be the best employers and employees as slaves of the very best Master.

Are your relationships and behaviour characterized as **L**iving **U**nder the **I**nfluence of God’s Spirit?

Are you making the most of every opportunity to make a wise life step?